

Appl. No. 09/746,611
Office Action mailed October 20, 2005
Response transmitted January 20, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 10022/24

REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 12-18, 22-26 and 28-48 are pending in the application, and new Claims 49-58 have been added. Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 12-18, 22-26, 28-48 are presently rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of two non-patent references, an article, "Public Private Partnership," published in May, 1999, and a proposal evaluation tool, "FedSelect," dated September, 1999.

2. Claims 1, 18 and 32 have been amended to better describe the invention. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found at least in Claim 1 as filed, in Figs. 6, 9 and 10, and in the text, on p. 3, lines 10-16, in the paragraph bridging pp. 11-12 of the application, the paragraph bridging pp. 12-13, and from p. 13, line 12, to p. 14, line 2. Support for the amendment to Claim 18 is found at least in Claim 18 as filed, in Figs. 6, 9 and 10, in the paragraph bridging pp. 11-12 of the application as filed, in the paragraph bridging pp. 11-12 of the application, in the paragraph bridging pp. 12-13, and from p. 13, line 12, to p. 14, line 2. Support for the amendment to Claim 32 is found at least in Claim 32 as filed, in Figs. 9-10, and in the text, in the paragraph bridging pp. 12-13, and from p. 13, line 12, to p. 14, line 2. Dependent Claims 3, 12, 16, 22-24, 30, 35-36, 43-44, and 48 have been amended to conform with the amended independent claims, and to correct antecedent basis. Support for the amendments to Claims 12, 16 and 30 is found at least in Fig. 10 and in the first full paragraph on p. 19.

The amendments distinguish over the prior art because none of the references teaches or suggests a method with steps of displaying questions relating to the proposal, allowing access to databases to answer the questions, or receiving answers to the questions based on information in the databases. None of the references teaches or suggests the sequence of evaluating and re-evaluating alternative structures based on searches for information and the results of those searches. In addition, none of the references teaches or suggests steps of evaluating and ranking two alternative structures for a proposal, followed by re-evaluation and re-ranking of the structures.

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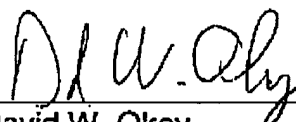
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Dependent claims have also been added to further characterize the invention. Support for dependent Claims 49-52 is found at least in Fig. 10, in Claim 1 as filed and in the specification on p. 13, lines 20-26. Support for Claim 53 is found at least in Claim 1 as filed and on p. 18, lines 1-3. Support for Claim 54 is found at least in Claim 1 as filed and on p. 18, lines 14-16. Support for Claims 55-56 is found at least in Fig. 10 and in Claim 18 as filed, and on p. 13, lines 22-25. Support for Claim 57 is found at least in Claim 32 as filed, in Fig. 10, and on p. 16, lines 10-22. Support for Claim 58 is found at least in Claim 32 as filed and in the specification, from p. 10, line 27, to p. 11, line 3.

3. Applicants have amended the claims to better describe the invention.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections and to allow the claims of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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